

REMARKS

Claims 9-13 are pending. Claim 9 has been amended; support for this amendment is provided on pages 2-3 of the specification. No new matter has been introduced into the application by way of amendment.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(b):

Claims 9-13 have been rejected as being anticipated by Banholzer et al (US 5,610,163). The Examiner asserts that the reference teaches novel composition comprising a salt of tiotropium and its use in the treatment of chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive bronchitis and asthma. Applicants believe that the amendment to claim 9 renders this rejection moot as the reference does not teach or fairly suggest the treatment of the inflammatory component of the diseases as claimed in claim 9. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance and earnestly request such action.

If any points remain at issue which can best be resolved by way of a telephonic or personal interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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